



Scottish Infected Blood Support Scheme

Welcome to issue 12 of the Scottish Infected Blood Support Scheme (SIBSS) Newsletter

UK Infected Blood Inquiry Update

Many of you will be aware that the Infected Blood Inquiry final report due to be published this autumn has been delayed. They expect to publish in March 2024. More information can be found in the News section on the Inquiry's website at <https://www.infectedbloodinquiry.org.uk/>


DWP / Benefits Help

If there are any queries from DWP, HMRC or your local Council in relation to your income from the scheme we have guidance that we can provide. If you have any problems or you are invited to a formal interview then you may wish to call or email SIBSS staff – they can provide you with a letter to confirm the payments you have received from SIBSS and confirm that these payments should be disregarded. If your benefits are stopped, we have a Benefits Advisor that can help. Please contact us for more information.

Interim compensation payments (£100,000) do not need to be taken into account when calculating your income tax bill, any entitlement to means-tested benefits or financial assessment for charges for those living in residential care, as long as you live in the United Kingdom. Furthermore, The Post Office Horizon Compensation and Infected Blood Interim Compensation Payment Schemes (Tax Exemptions and Relief) Regulations 2023 exempts interim compensation payments from inheritance tax and capital gains tax from 28 October 2022. Please see our website for more information [Find further support | National Services Scotland \(nhs.scot\)](#)

Psychology Support

The [Scottish Infected Blood Psychology Service](#) is available to provide help and support to anyone infected or affected by infected blood, whether or not they are a member of SIBSS. Those who may be receiving payments from another Infected Blood Support Scheme but live in Scotland and those who believe they were infected with Hepatitis B through NHS treatment can also access the service.



You can self-refer to the service by completing the [referral form](#) and posting it back, or if you would like to discuss whether the service is right for you, you can speak to one of the team on 0131 537 9128. The team can also send a referral form out to you, with a self-addressed envelope for return, if you would have problems printing the form and arranging to post it back.

Winter Fuel Allowance

The winter fuel allowance of £618 was paid to all eligible beneficiaries with the October payment.

Survey Results

Thank you to all who participated in our survey. We were delighted with the results, in particular the individual comments expressed for the good work carried out by the SIBSS team. We are happy to say that 97% of scheme members who participated rated our overall performance as being good/very good. This is an improvement on our previous results and highlights that the actions agreed by the Advisory Group are working. However, we are not complacent. The Action Plan has been updated and we will continue to strive for further improvements. We have published the final report on our website – [SIBSS](#) - but if you would like a hard copy of the report contact the SIBSS team.

Emails from SIBSS

If you receive emails from us, can we ask that you periodically check your Junk folders as we have had a couple of messages to say that they seem to be ending up there instead of Inboxes.

Did you know?

- If you do not have access to the internet, or prefer to talk directly, the SIBSS team are happy to give advice and assistance over the phone.
- If you receive a regular payment; you can request a monthly remittance advice to be sent to you.
- You need to inform us if you move address or your circumstances change. See link to change of detail form. [SIBSS Change of Details Form](#)

Contact Us

Scottish Infected Blood Support Scheme

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